

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

CD NO.

COUNTRY Peru

DATE DISTR. 13 Nov 50

SUBJECT Communist Support of Rebels in
Socialist Party Split

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. Members of the Communist Party of Peru in the Piura oil area of northern Peru are reported to be supporting Dagoberto Torres, press and propaganda secretary of the Socialist Party, in his rebellion against the leadership of Luciano Castillo.* The Communist oil workers are assisting Torres' supporters in agitating for a national congress of the Socialist Party which would define the party's line and oust Castillo as chief of the Socialist Party.
2. Communist support of Torres is based on the assumption that a Socialist Party under the leadership of Torres, or one of his henchmen, would stand for a program for the Peruvian petroleum industry which would be very similar to that of the Communists; i.e.,
 - a. Nationalization of the petroleum industry.
 - b. Organization and official government recognition of a Peruvian Federation of Petroleum Workers which would in turn affiliate with the CTAL.**
3. Torres, who is presently editing a Socialist publication known as Senda, has been agitating for a congress of the Socialist Party to be held on 8 December 1950. In addition to Torres, other Socialists who are leading the rebellion against Castillo are Teodoro Garrido Lecca and Hernan Pasapera, all of whom lost out in the Piura congressional elections as a result of the decision of the national electoral board. The so-called "Salomonic" decision of the board approved a mixed slate of Odristas and Socialists after the Socialists' virtual clean sweep of the congressional seats had been challenged. Castillo is accused of betraying the party in having accepted the government's compromise solution of the Piura electoral dispute.

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Comment. Source had previously reported that Torres maintains contact with leaders of the CTAL.

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